

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed January 26, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 20 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 16, 18 and 20, and have canceled claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 19 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claims 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, 14, 17 and 19 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of these canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicates that claims 4-5, 9-10, and 14-15 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Office Action also indicates that claims 19 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to alleviate the rejection of under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In that it is believed that every rejection has been overcome, it is respectfully submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

Abstract Objection

The abstract of the disclosure has been objected to because of the inclusion of legal terminology. Through this Response, all such legal language has been removed. In view of that amendment, Applicants respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Specification Objection

The specification has been objected to for containing various informalities. In response to the objection, Applicants have amended the specification and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

Claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 have been objected to for containing various informalities. In response to the objection, Applicants have amended the claims and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 16 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. As set forth above, Applicants have amended claim 16 and respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-3, 6-8, 11-13, and 16-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Saxton, et al. ("Saxton," U.S. Pat. No. 6,016,492). With respect to claims 2, 7, 12 and 17, Applicants have canceled these claims and respectfully assert that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

With respect to claim 1, that claim has been amended to recite:

1. A system for processing a document by external processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links embedded within the document, comprising:
 - means for acquiring a processing link in the document;
 - means for using said processing link to invoke a processing engine to modify the document;
 - means for modifying said document by said processing engine;
 - means for invoking said processing engine using a data list;
 - means for accessing a local directory to create said data list for said processing link; and*
 - means for accessing a global directory to create said data list for said processing link, if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory.*

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Saxton* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 3 and 5 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 6, that claim has been amended to recite:

6. A method for processing a document by external processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links embedded within the document, said method comprising:
 - acquiring a processing link embedded in the document;

using said processing link to invoke a processing engine to modify the document;
modifying said document by said processing engine;
using a data list to invoke said processing engine;
accessing a local directory to create said data list for said processing link; and
accessing a global directory to create said data list for said processing link if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Saxton* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 6. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 6 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 8 and 10 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 6, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 11, that claim has been amended to recite:

11. A computer readable medium for processing a document by external processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links embedded within the document, comprising:
logic for acquiring a processing link in the document;
logic for using said processing link to invoke a processing engine to modify the document;
logic for modifying said document by said processing engine;
logic for using a data list to invoke said processing engine;
logic for accessing a local directory to create said data list for said processing link; and
logic for accessing a global directory to create said data list for said processing link if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Saxton* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 13 and 15 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 16, that claim has been amended to recite:

16. A system for processing a document by external processing routines that operate on the document in response to reference links embedded within the document, comprising:
 - a processing link identifier that identifies a document containing at least one processing link to an external processing routine;
 - an invoker operative to use a data list to invoke a processing engine to modify said document;
 - a local directory lookup that accesses a local directory to create said data list for said processing link; and*
 - a global directory lookup that accesses a global directory to create said data list for said processing link if said data list for said processing link is not located in said local directory;*
- wherein said processing engine modifies said document using said external processing routine.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Saxton* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 16. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 16 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 18 and 20 incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 16, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

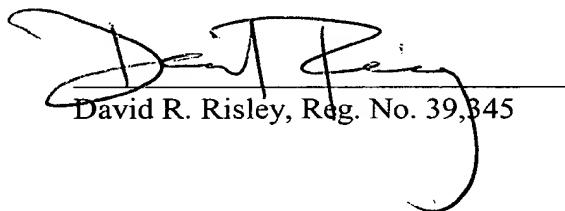
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants' pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

4/26/05

Stephanie Riley
Signature